

Message Text

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ORIGIN MCE-00

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APPROVED BY PM/MC:WBROBINSON
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY
INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY 0427
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S E C R E T STATE 139770

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, IR

SUBJECT: IIN INTEREST IN SHARING SATELLITE BEING SOLD
TO IRAN

REF: TEHRAN 5040

1. EARLY THIS YEAR ABII ASKED DOD TO ARRANGE INTERAGENCY MEETING TO DISCUSS IIN REQUIREMENT FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF SATELLITE COMMAND AND CONTROL CAPABILITY FOR IRANIAN DESTROYERS IN INDIAN OCEAN. MEETING HELD AT PENTAGON FEBRUARY 2.

2. COMPANY DESCRIBED PROGRAM IN FAIRLY GENERAL TERMS. ABII, HOWEVER, UNABLE TO ANSWER A NUMBER OF PERTINENT QUESTIONS REGARDING PROPOSED SATELLITE CAPABILITIES. FOR INSTANCE, DOD NOTED THAT BEFORE IT COULD RECOMMEND
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APPROVAL OF SUCH A PROGRAM, THE NUMBER AND TYPES OF TRANSMISSIONS THE SYSTEM WOULD BE CONFIGURED TO HANDLE WOULD HAVE TO BE KNOWN. ABII DID NOT KNOW AND INDICATED IRANIANS WOULD NOT BE SPECIFIC UNTIL THEY HAD APPROVAL FROM USG FOR PROGRAM. MEETING OBVIOUSLY WENT NO PLACE.

3. IT WAS AGREED THAT ABII NEEDED SOMETHING IN WRITING

FROM DEPARTMENT TO GET IT OFF HOOK AND ALLEVIATE PRESSURE

FROM IRANIANS FOR QUICK, FIRM POSITION FROM USG. DEPOFF
AND DOD REPRESENTATIVES SUGGESTED ABII SUBMIT TO
DEPARTMENT WRITTEN REQUEST FOR ADVISORY OPINION WHICH
WOULD BE STAFFED FOR DOD REVIEW AND COMMENT. DOD WOULD
NOTE REASONS FOR ITS INABILITY TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF
PROGRAM IN PRINCIPLE AT THIS TIME AND REASONS WOULD BE
FED BACK TO COMPANY BY DEPARTMENT IN LETTER.

4. ABII'S REQUEST SUBMITTED FEBRUARY 8 AND DEPARTMENT
RESPONDED MARCH 10 BY NOTING THAT IT "CONSIDERS APPROVAL
AT THIS TIME OF THE PROPOSED EFFORT TO BE PREMATURE.
UNTIL SUCH TIME AS ONGOING JOINT IRANIAN/U.S. GOVERNMENT
REVIEWS OF OPERATIONAL ASPECTS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AND
IRANIAN COMMAND, CONTROL, AND COMMUNICATIONS REQUIREMENTS
ARE COMPLETED, NO POSITION ON THE QUESTION OF UPGRADING
IRANIAN NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS CAN BE TAKEN".

5. THIS BACKGROUND INFORMATION HOPEFULLY WILL HELP
IN DISCUSSING PROGRAM WITH IRANIANS. DEPARTMENT WOULD
BE INTERESTED IN IRANIAN REACTIONS. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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